

same time please to consider you may preserve a worthy family from utter destruction—

believe me to be my Dear sir Your Mt. Obed. Servt.

J Burgwin

RC, Iredell Papers, Duke. Endorsed "January 14th. 1786. John Burgwin. Ansd. But an Opinion to be formed &c."<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Burgwin had traveled to England in 1775 for medical reasons. In 1777, while he was still abroad, the North Carolina assembly authorized the confiscation of property belonging to those who were absent from the country on July 4, 1776, and had not returned. Burgwin's situation was complicated by his failure at an earlier date to provide gunpowder requested by the Wilmington Committee of Safety. After the passage of the 1777 confiscation law, Burgwin returned to Wilmington only to leave again in 1781 when the British occupied the town. He traveled in Europe, including England, and while there married an English woman. After the war's end, he returned to Wilmington and eventually regained his property. *DNCB*, s.v. "Burgwin, John"; Clark, *State Records*, 24:123-124. For Burgwin's account of events, see the enclosure with John Burgwin to JI, March 30, 1786, in this volume.

Archibald Maclaine suggested that those who opposed Burgwin were motivated by the fact that they owed him money and that he was a business competitor. A. Maclaine to George Hooper, June 14, 1784, in Clark, *State Records*, 17:144-147.

<sup>2</sup>See JI to John Burgwin, February 6, 1786, in this volume.

*From James Hogg*

Hillsborough 19th. Jan. 1786

Dear Sir

The Law passd at last Assembly for quieting in their possession the Purchasers of Confiscated property makes it again necessary for Mr. Johnstons Exrs. to apply for advice.<sup>1</sup>

You have received no fee from us but you have been so good as to allow us to consider you as retaind for the business regarding Fannings Lots and Lands and we Shall pay your fee with pleasure<sup>2</sup>

I have written a long letter to Mr. Johnston on this Subject and have sent him a Copy of this wonderful Law by which the Assembly have arrogated to themselves the judicial power in all Suits regarding Confiscated property<sup>3</sup> How the people at large will like this innovation, I know not, but when you have read it I Suppose you will see reason to give us an